What is claimed is:

1. A check comprising:

sheet material;

means defining at least one field of pre-printed information on the sheet material; and

means for storing on the sheet material apriori reference image quality data which is representative of at least one characteristic of the pre-printed information contained in the at least one field.

2. A check comprising:

sheet material;

at least one encoded symbol disposed on the sheet material; and
means for storing on the sheet material apriori reference image quality data
which is representative of at least one characteristic of the encoded symbol.

3. A method of storing apriori reference image quality data which is representative of at least one characteristic of pre-printed information contained in at least one field of a check, the method comprising:

storing the apriori reference image quality data on the check.

- 4. A method according to claim 3, wherein the stored apriori reference image quality data includes data which is representative of the number of fields of pre-printed information on the check.
- 5. A method according to claim 4, wherein the stored apriori reference image quality data for each field of pre-printed information includes data which is representative of content of the pre-printed information contained in the field.

- 6. A method according to claim 3, wherein the stored apriori reference image quality data for each field of pre-printed information includes data which is representative of type of print contained in the field.
- 7. A method according to claim 3, wherein the stored apriori reference image quality data for each field of pre-printed information includes format data which is representative of format of the pre-printed information in the field.
- 8. A method according to claim 3, wherein the stored apriori reference image quality data for each field of pre-printed information includes data which is representative of physical dimensions of the field.
- 9. A method according to claim 3, wherein the stored apriori reference image quality data for each field of pre-printed information includes data which is representative of location of the field.
- 10. A method of storing apriori reference image quality data which is representative of at least one characteristic of at least one encoded symbol disposed on a check, the method comprising:

storing the apriori reference image quality data which is representative of the at least one characteristic of the encoded symbol on the check.

11. A method of providing an indication of quality of an image of a financial document other than currency, the method comprising:

storing on the financial document apriori reference image quality data which is representative of at least one characteristic of the financial document;

receiving image data which is representative of the image of the financial document;

retrieving the stored apriori reference image quality data;

comparing the retrieved apriori reference image quality data with the image data which is representative of the image of the financial document; and providing an indication of quality of the image of the financial document based upon the comparison of the apriori reference image quality data with the image data.

- 12. A method according to claim 11, wherein the at least one characteristic of the financial document includes a characteristic of the pre-printed information contained in at least one field of the financial document.
- 13. A method according to claim 11, wherein the at least one characteristic of the financial document includes a characteristic of at least one encoded symbol on the financial document.